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JAZZ FUSION: A CASE STUDY OF ETHNO FUNK BY TOHPATI  
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### **Affidavit**

I, Mohd Azirien bin Ishak testify that this research report is my own work and all sources have been acknowledged.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Azirien', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

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## **Abstract**

For the past 60 years, jazz has spread to almost every country in the world and has been listened by various people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. During the 60's and the 70's jazz was mainly popular only among the people in the west but nowadays, many people in Asia have embraced jazz and made it as one of their favourite genres in music. Musicians like Mile Davis, John McLaughlin and Pet Metheny have influenced musicians around Asia to fuse jazz music with their local music. Since the 70's, jazz fusion has grown from traditional jazz music and many influential musicians started to fuse jazz music with other genres, notably rock, and r'n'b. When the fusion music style landed in Asia, local musicians started to mix jazz with ethnic music for example, Arabic and Indonesian ethnic music. Thus, a fusion style akin to the music, the Indonesian guitarist/composer Tohpati was born. Tohpati specifically mixes contemporary jazz with his ethnic music elements, specifically the Javanese musical element and thus creating music in the genre of contemporary jazz fusion. The purpose of my research project is to study the relationship between melody and harmony in *Ethno Funk* by Tohpati and to analyse on the way in which Tohpati fuses elements of ethnic and rock music with jazz harmony in *Ethno Funk*.

## **List of Contents**

| <b><u>LIST OF CONTENTS</u></b> | <b><u>PAGE</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Affidavit                      | i                  |
| Acknowledgements               | ii                 |
| Abstract                       | iii                |
| List of Tables                 | vii                |
| List of Figures                | viii               |

### **CHAPTER 1: Introduction**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Background of the Study   | 1 |
| Jazz Fusion               | 1 |
| Tohpati Ario              | 3 |
| Tohpati Ethnomission      | 5 |
| <i>Ethno Funk</i>         | 5 |
| Statement of Problem(s)   | 6 |
| Research Objectives       | 6 |
| Research Questions        | 7 |
| Significance of the Study | 7 |
| Scope of the Study        | 7 |

## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Background of the study

**Jazz fusion.** At present, jazz is one of the most famous music genres listened to by the people of the world. Many jazz festivals have been organized in order to spread knowledge about jazz and to share the sound of jazz with the rest of the world. Like other music genres, jazz also has its own sub-genres and one of them is called “fusion jazz”. As its name would suggest, fusion jazz is the merging of jazz with other styles and techniques, most recognizably with those of “rhythm and blues”, rock and funk. Fusion came into being as a way of closing the gap between emerging genres while still maintaining elements of traditional styles of music. This happened during the 60’s and 70’s, when rock music was the most famous genre at that time.

According to Richie Morales, fusion is an attempt to blend different styles of music in an effort to come up with a new style (Morales, 2005, p 122). In its original form, fusion was generally thought of as a blend of jazz improvisation, rock energy and amplification, and some classical harmonic influences.

On the other hand, ethnic music is the traditional and typically anonymous music that is an expression of the life of people in a community.<sup>1</sup> Music that combines all types of ethnic music can be called world music. World music is a musical category that mixes many different styles of music from around the world, including, traditional music, quasi-traditional music and music where more than one cultural tradition intermingles.

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<sup>1</sup> *Definition of ethnic music.* [www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com) Retrieved on date May 10<sup>th</sup> 2013